

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

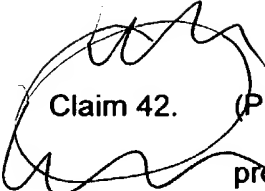
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.


LISTING OF CLAIMS:

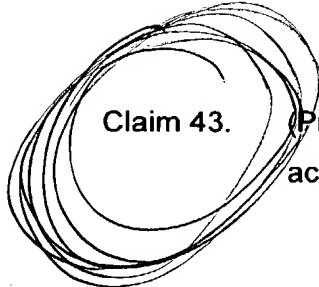
Claims 1-39. Cancelled.


Claim 40. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab
or F(ab')² fragment, which recognizes a 150 kDA *T. equigenitalis*
protein.


Claim 41. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab
or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 40, in combination with at least
one antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognize
T. equigenitalis proteins selected from the group consisting of
T. equigenitalis proteins of 120 kDA, 52.7 kDA and 22 (LPS) kDA.

 Claim 42. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody obtained by a process comprising:

 fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells
from mice immunized against an inactivated strain of the
species *T. equigenitalis* or extract(s) of such a strain,
cloning and selecting according to the capacity of their culture
supernatant to recognize a 150 kDA *T. equigenitalis*
protein,
recovering the required monoclonal antibody, and
optionally purifying said monoclonal antibody.

 Claim 43. (Previously Presented) A method of obtaining a monoclonal antibody according to claim 40, comprising:

fusing non-secreting murine myeloma cells with spleen cells
from mice immunized by means of a strain of the species
T. equigenitalis or extract(s) from such a strain,
screening hybridomas whose culture supernatants exhibit a
positive reaction with a 150 kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein
or a fragment thereof, 
selecting by cloning the hybridomas with respect to their
reactivity, in relation to *T. equigenitalis*,
recovering the monoclonal antibody, and
optionally purifying said monoclonal antibody.

 Claim 44. (Previously Presented) A strain of hybridoma, which secretes a monoclonal antibody according to claim 40.

 Claim 45.

(Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may

contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective

quantity of a monoclonal antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')²

fragment thereof according to claim 40, under conditions

permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody type, and

detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed

~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~

wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the

species *T. equigenitalis*.

 Claim 46.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

(a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof

according to claim 40, into contact with a biological

sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis*

antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody

reaction, and

(b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed

~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~

in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,

wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis*
infection.

 Claim 47.


(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, further
comprising blocking the non antigen-antibody reactions.

 Claim 48.

(Previously Presented) A kit for application of a method of
identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis*
(*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

a monoclonal antibody or fragment according to claim 40,
a reagent for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,
optionally, a reagent for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

Claim 49. Cancelled.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 48, wherein said
reagent for carrying out the intended immunologic reaction is selected
from the group consisting of markers and buffers.


Claim 51. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 48, wherein a reagent for blocking the non antigenic-antibody reaction is included and said reagent is mouse serum.

Claim 52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the non antigen-antibody reaction is blocked by saturation of the specimen obtained by means of a serum from which anti-*T. equigenitalis* antibodies have been removed.

Claim 53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, further comprising blocking the non antigen-antibody reactions.

Claim 54. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 40, in combination with antibodies or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragments thereof which recognize *T. equigenitalis* proteins of 120 kDA, 52.7 kDA and 22 (LPS) kDA.

Claim 55. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 40, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 120 kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 40, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 52.7 kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 57. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 40, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 22 (LPS) kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 58. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 42, in combination with at least one antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a *T. equigenitalis* protein selected from the group consisting of *T. equigenitalis* proteins of 120 kDA, 52.7 kDA and 22 (LPS) kDA.

Claim 59. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 42, in combination with antibodies or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragments thereof which recognize *T. equigenitalis* proteins of 120 kDA, 52.7 kDA and 22 (LPS) kDA.

Claim 60. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 42, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 120 kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 61. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 42, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 52.7 kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) An isolated monoclonal antibody or its Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment according to claim 42, in combination with an antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof which recognizes a 22 (LPS) kDA *T. equigenitalis* protein.

Claim 63. (Previously Presented) A strain of hybridoma, which secretes the monoclonal antibody according to claim 42.

Claim 64. (Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective

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amend language from claim 69

quantity of the monoclonal antibodies or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragments thereof according to claim 41, under conditions permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody type, and

detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~
wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*.

Claim 65.

(Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective quantity of the monoclonal antibody or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragment thereof according to claim 42, under conditions permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody type, and detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~
wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*.

 Claim 66.

(Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective quantity of the monoclonal antibodies or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragments thereof according to claim 54, under conditions permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody type, and

detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed

~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~
wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the species *T. equigenitalis*.

 Claim 67.

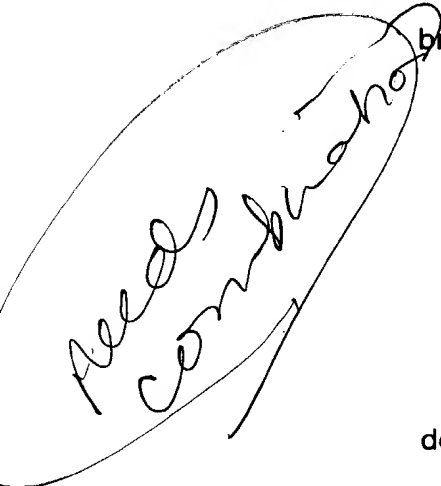
(Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective quantity of the monoclonal antibodies or Fv, Fab or F(ab')² fragments thereof according to claim 58, under conditions permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody type, and

detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~
wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the
species *T. equigenitalis*.

 Claim 68.

(Currently Amended) A method of identification of a bacterium of the
species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a
culture comprising:

 bringing the specimen or the culture to be analyzed, which may
contain *T. equigenitalis*, into contact with an effective
quantity of the monoclonal antibodies or Fv, Fab or
F(ab')² fragments thereof according to claim 59, under
conditions permitting a reaction of the antigen-antibody
type, and

detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type,~~
wherein said product is indicative of the presence of a bacterium of the
species *T. equigenitalis*.

 Claim 69.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by
Taylorella equigenitalis (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

- (a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof
according to claim 41, into contact with a biological

sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis* antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody reaction, and

- (b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~
in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,

wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis* infection.

Claim 70.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by
Taylorella equigenitalis (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

- (a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof
according to claim 42, into contact with a biological
sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis*
antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody
reaction, and
- (b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~
in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,

wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis* infection.

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Claim 71.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by
Taylorella equigenitalis (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

- (a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof
according to claim 54, into contact with a biological
sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis*
antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody
reaction, and
- (b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~
in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,

wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis*
infection.

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Claim 72.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by
Taylorella equigenitalis (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

- (a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof
according to claim 58, into contact with a biological
sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis*
antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody
reaction, and

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- (b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~
in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,

wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis*
infection.

Claim 73.

(Currently Amended) A method of diagnosis of an infection by
Taylorella equigenitalis (*T. equigenitalis*) comprising:

- (a) bringing a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof
according to claim 59, into contact with a biological
sample, wherein said sample may contain *T. equigenitalis*
antigen, under conditions permitting an antigen-antibody
reaction, and
- (b) detecting any antigen/antibody type reaction product formed
~~product formed in a reaction of the antigen-antibody type~~
in said sample between the antibody or fragment of (a)
and a *T. equigenitalis* antigen,


wherein said product is indicative of a diagnosis for *T. equigenitalis*
infection.

 Claim 74.

(Currently Amended) A kit for application of a method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

the a monoclonal antibody or fragment ~~antibodies or fragments~~
according to claim 41,
reagents for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

Claim 75. (Previously Presented) A kit for application of a method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

 a monoclonal antibody or fragment according to claim 42,
reagents for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

 Claim 76.

(Currently Amended) A kit for application of a method of identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis* (*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

the a monoclonal antibody or fragment ~~antibodies or fragments~~
according to claim 54,
reagents for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,

optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

Claim 77.

(Currently Amended) A kit for application of a method of
identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis*
(*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

the a monoclonal antibody or fragment ~~antibodies or fragments~~
according to claim 58,
reagents for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

Claim 78.

(Currently Amended) A kit for application of a method of
identification of a bacterium of the species *Taylorella equigenitalis*
(*T. equigenitalis*) in a specimen or in a culture comprising:

the a monoclonal antibody or fragment ~~antibodies or fragments~~
according to claim 59,
reagents, for detecting the intended immunologic reaction,
optionally, reagents for blocking the non antigen-antibody
reactions, and
instructions for use.

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Claims 79-83 Cancelled.